Concord Light

YOUR local utility

LightLines

MARCH-APRIL 2012

A newsletter for Concord Municipal Light Plant's residential customers

Does your household use life support equipment?

If anyone in your household uses life support equipment that requires electricity, please call our office at 978-318-3101, write Concord Light at P.O. Box 1029, Concord, MA 01742-1029, or e-mail chilton@concordma.gov. Be sure to include the type of equipment used and the address where it is located.

Even if you notified us before, please confirm that the information is still current. Also, remember that those who rely on medical equipment should always have an alternative plan in case of an unexpected or extended outage.

FINAL \$3 MILLION

Rate stabilization funds end in 2012

As of January 1, Concord Light began returning the remainder of the Rate Stabilization funds collected between the spring of 2006 and the fall of 2009. You may recall these collections were put aside to mitigate the anticipated increases in power supply costs attendant to the September 30, 2009 expiration of the very inexpensive Constellation power supply contract.

The total collections amounted to about \$9 million. Bill credits were provided to customers beginning October 1, 2009 and the remaining balance as of January 1 of

this year was about \$3 million.

As a result of the fund, residential customers were receiving a credit of 1.334 cents/kilowatt-hour during 2011 and that credit will increase to 1.732 cents/kwh in 2012. For the median residential customer consuming 700 kwhs/month, the savings during 2012 will amount to about \$2.80/month or approximately \$33 in total.

It's amazing how \$3 million just doesn't seem to go as far as it used to!

Wind energy project is a win-win

One of Concord Light's objectives in the area of power supply is to purchase as much energy from renewable sources

as possible provided the economics are in line with more conventional power supply options.

With that in mind, Concord Light joined 12 other municipal light plants in contracting with Patriot Renewables of Quincy, MA to purchase the entire output from their Spruce Mountain Wind Project in Woodstock, ME, located

just south of Sunday River. It is estimated the project will generate some 60 million kilowatt-hours annually and Concord will receive approximately 10%. This will represent about 3% of the Town's total energy needs.

So what about the cost? You no doubt

have heard about the Cape Wind project, which is offering energy starting at 18.5 cents/kwh in year one and escalating at

3.5% annually over the 20year agreement. National Grid has agreed to purchase half the output at that price – NSTAR has said it's too expensive. For once we agree with NSTAR!

The power we will receive from Spruce Mountain, which began production this past December, is priced at a flat rate of 9.9 cents/kwh for the next 15 years. In addition, the participating light plants will re-

ceive all the environmental benefits associated with the project, which we are currently estimating at 2.5 cents/kwh for a net cost to Concord of only 7.4 cents/kwh for the next 15 years. We view this purchase as a win-win for Concord.



Did you catch us doing these things?

Community Service

- ✓ CCHS Back to School Night Concord Light displayed an array of energy-efficient light bulbs at Concord-Carlisle High School's Back to School Night, where we answered questions about energy-efficient home lighting choices from parents and students.
- ✓ **Concord Light Open House** We hosted some 160 Concord residents and their families at our fall Open House, held

to help celebrate Public Power Week. The event included displays on everything from energy-efficient lighting and solar energy to how electricity is delivered to the home.

- ✓ **Senior lunch** Concord Light staff this fall cooked and served lunch to senior citizens at the Council on Aging's Harvey Wheeler Center—an annual event that was enjoyed by all.
- ✓ **Holiday tree lighting** Trees in the West Concord business district and at the Town House sparkled with energy-efficient

LED lighting during the holidays thanks to Concord Light line crews.

✓ Children's programs — Third- and fourth-graders learned about electric safety and energy efficiency in October during an annual classroom program sponsored by Concord Light. On our website, children, parents and teachers can go to e-Smart Kids to learn about electricity and how to use it safely and wisely —while having fun with games and experiments.

CONCORD LIGHT IS 114!

The Concord Municipal Light Department is one of 40 municipal utilities in Massachusetts, each independently owned by the communities they serve. This makes us very different from the state's large, private utilities.

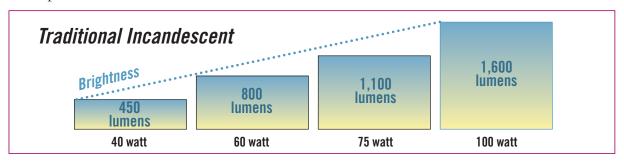
It is a difference that dates back to April 4, 1898, when Town Meeting voters took control of Concord's electric service by establishing a municipal Light Plant.

Because the people of Concord — not outof-town investors —
own Concord Light, all
utility benefits flow
back to our customers
in the form of lower
rates, better service,
and enhanced community programs. To
all our customers, our
sincere thanks for your
continuing support.

Watch for Lighting Facts label on light bulbs

Just as we've gotten used to reading the nutrition labels on food packages, we'll now size up the light bulbs on store shelves by reading the Lighting Facts label. New bulb packages now feature the label, which is designed to help us understand what we are buying.

For example, a traditional 60-watt incandescent bulb produces 800 lumens of light—its brightness. You can also get 800 lumens of light by purchasing a 14-watt compact fluorescent (CFL) bulb, or a 13-watt LED bulb. Some CFL or LED packages may claim their bulb is a "60-watt equivalent," but such claims are not always accurate. Instead, look for the number of lumens you need on the Lighting Facts label, based on the output of traditional incandescent bulbs you've used in the past.



"Light Appearance" may also be a new concept for light bulb users. It is measured on the Kelvin scale (K). Lower numbers mean the light has more yellow tones, and higher numbers mean the light is whiter or bluer.



Finally, look for bulbs with the Energy Star logo on the Lighting Facts label. The Energy Star logo means the bulbs meet high standards for efficiency, lifetime and quality.





Concord Municipal Light Plant

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